



February 10, 2015

**NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS TO
GRADE AND LABELING STANDARDS FOR
OLIVE OIL, REFINED-OLIVE OIL, AND OLIVE-POMACE OIL**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department), upon a recommendation from the Olive Oil Commission of California (Commission), has approved amendments to Section 11.3.6 of the Grade and Labeling Standards for Olive Oil, Refined-Olive Oil and Olive-Pomace Oil (Standards), which were previously made effective by the Department on September 26, 2014. This section of the Standards provides guidelines for how affected handlers may label their olive oil products if a harvest date is indicated on the packaging.

The specific language of the amendments to Section 11.3.6 of the Standards is presented below with deletions shown in ~~strikethrough~~ and additions shown in *italics*:

11.3.6 ~~Year of Harvest~~ *Harvest Date*. If reference is made to a harvest date, then 100% of the olives used to make the oil must have been harvested during that time period. Because the *California* harvest typically runs from ~~October~~ *August* through ~~January~~ *March*, the dating *year* refers to ~~it by~~ the *earlier* calendar year; for example the *August* 2014 - *March* 2015 harvest ~~season~~ is deemed to be the ~~2015~~ *2014* harvest. When oils from multiple years are combined and the year of harvest is indicated the label must indicate each of the harvest years contained therein. If *both* the month(s) and year(s) of harvest are indicated then *all periods must be listed and* 100% of the oil must be from that (*those*) period(s). ~~If the season and year are indicted then 100% of the oil must be from that period.~~

The amendments to the Standards will become effective on February 16, 2015. A complete copy of the Standards as issued and amended by the Department can be accessed online at: http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/pdf/CA_Olive_Oil_Standards.pdf.



Notice of Amendment
February 10, 2015
Page Two

The Standards apply to California handlers of olives that are processed into olive oils, refined-olive oils, and olive-pomace oils in the amount of 5,000 gallons or more during a marketing season and who sell their oils into commercial channels of trade. Handlers who process and/or market less than 5,000 gallons of olive oil annually are not subject to the Standards.

If you have questions regarding the Grade and Labeling Standards for Olive Oil, Refined-Olive Oil, and Olive-Pomace Oil, please contact Spencer Halsey, Executive Director of the Olive Oil Commission of California, at (916) 441-1581, or Joe Monson with the Department's Marketing Branch at (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,



Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch